

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-13 T-03

ACDA-19 CCO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

INRE-00 RSR-01 /129 W

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O R 111200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8505

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 3931

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO  
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 MARCH 11.

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SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

I ICCS: CANDEL DEPLOYMENT

II FPJMC: PW RELEASES

III RVN CHARGES 6,463 COMMUNIST CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS

IV MR 1: INCIDENTS INCREASE; ICCS GIO LINH RECCE

V MR2: ICCS INVESTIGATION IN BINH DINH, PLEIKU AND  
DARLAC

VI MR 3: ENEMY RE- INFORMING IN HAU NGHIA

VII MR4: REGION VII ICCS LAUNCHES 8 TH INVESTIAGTION;  
VC/ NVA PRESSURE IN CHUONG THIEN CONTINUES

PART I INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION  
( ICCS)

THE ICCS CANDELS HAVE NO DEPLOYED TO ALL SEVEN REGIONAL HQ' S;  
TO ALL SUB- REGION SITES EXCEPT QUANG TRI, CHU LAI ( TEAM IS  
TEMPORARILY RESIDING IN TAM KY ), AND AN LOC ( TEAM IS TEMPORARILY  
RESIDING IN LAM SON); AND TO ALL OTHER PORT OF ENTRY OR BORDER  
OBSERVATION POINTS EXCEPT XA MAT, LAO BAO, GIO LINH, AND  
HONG NGU.

PART II FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION ( FPJMC)

1. ON MARCH 10 THE FOLLOWING POW RELEASES WERE ACCOMPLISHED:  
800 PRG RELEASED AT QUANG TRI; 400 PRG RELEASED AT BONG SON;  
70 RVN RELEASED AT BONG SON; 180 PRG TRANSPORTED TO BONG SON,  
BUT TOO LATE FOR RELEASE MARCH 10; THEY ARE TO BE TURNED OVER  
MARCH 11. FPJMC MONITORED THESE RELEASES.

2. MARCH 11 PW RELEASES: DUE TO WHAT PRG CLAIMED TO BE " LACK  
OF SECURITY," OCCASIONED BY FIGHTING IN THE AREA, SCHEDULED RE-  
LEASES OF 250 ARVN AND 500 PRG PWS AT DUC PHO AND TAM KY DID  
NOT TAKE PLACE MARCH 11. AS OF 1730 LOCAL, SCHEDULED RELEASE AT  
BONG SON HAD RESULTED IN THE EXCHANGE OF 300 PRG PWS AND 200  
ARVN PWS, WITH ANOTHER 200 PRG PRISONERS SCHEDULED FOR RE-  
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LEASE MARCH 11. ADDITIONAL RELEASES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED MARCH

12 AND 13 AT MINH THANH AND LOC NINH; AND TENTATIVELY ON MARCH  
14 IN QUANG TRI.

3. THE US HAS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THE DRV/ PRG THAT 75 PER CENT  
OF THE US TROOPS IN SVN ON JANUARY 28 HAVE NOW BEEN WITHDRAWN,  
AND ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED THE DRV/ PRG TO PROVIDE A LIST OF THE  
US POW'S TO BE RELEASED IN PHASE III. THE DRV/ PRG HAS IN-  
FORMED US THAT THE NEXT RELEASE WILL TAKE PLACE IN HANOI, ON TWO  
SEPARATE DAYS; AND HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS DATES AND OTHER DETAILS  
ON MARCH 13.

4. ON MARCH 9 IN CEASE- FIRE REGION VI US AND RVN FPJMC  
ELEMENTS INVESTIGATED ALLEGED VIOLATIONS IN KIEN PHONG AND KIEN  
HOA ( DRV/ PRG REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE THEY " LACKED  
AUTHORITY"). ON LANDING AT THE VIOLATION SITE IN KIEN PHONG, TEAM  
WAS MET BY 6 82 MM ROUNDS IMPACTING NEARBY. TEAM WITHDREW;  
NO CASUALTIES.

5. ON MARCH 9 THE RVN INFORMED THE US THAT IT WOULD NOT SEEK TO  
RELOCATE THE DRV/ PRG FACILITIES IN BAO LOC, LAM DONG PROVINCE.  
RVN HAD PROPOSED THE RELOCATION IN ORDER FURTHER TO ISOLATE THE  
DRV/ PRG ELEMENTS FROM THE LOCAL POPULATION, AND THE US HAD  
PROTESTED ON GROUNDS THAT TO MOVE THE FACILITIES WOULD FURTHER DE-  
LAY AND IMPEDE FPJMC OPERATIONS.

#### PART III CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS ( VNP) CHARGED TODAY THAT UP TO 1200  
MARCH 10, 1973 THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAD COMMITTED 6,463 VIOLA-  
TIONS. ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE 13,202 KIA, 202 CIA. FRIENDLY  
CASUALTIES WERE 2,468 KIA, 11,687 WIA AND 677 MIA. 254  
CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, 736 WOUNDED AND 75 ABDUCTED.

#### PART IV MR 1

1. ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS CONTINUED ENEMY SUPPLY ACTIVITY IN  
BASE AREAS OF WESTERN QUANG TRI AND LAOS BORDER. INCIDENTS IN-  
CREASED TO 51 IN THE REGION, 46 OF WHICH WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE. AIR-  
BORNE AND 1 ST DIVISION UNITS TOOK 19 ATTACKS TALLING OVER 700  
ROUNDS, MOSTLY MORTAR. THERE WERE SEVERAL GROUND ENGAGEMENTS  
IN MO DUC AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS OF QUANG NGAI AS WELL AS CON-  
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TACTS IN THE QUE SON VALLEY. VNAF FLEW 36 SORTIES, ALL IN THE 3 RD  
DIVISION AO. CASUALTIES REPORTED: GVN 6 KIA, 62, WIA; COM-  
MUNIST 37 KIA. DOUR NAVAL GUNFIRE MISSIONS WERE DIRECTED  
AGAINST TARGETS ON THE BATANGAN PENINSULA FOR TOTAL OF 166 ROUNDS,  
GVN ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES REPORTED: 3,600 ROUNDS NORTH OF HAI

VAN PASS; 10,000 SOUTH.

2. THE REGION I ICCS TEAM MADE A RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO THE GIO LINH ACCESS POINT SITE ON MARCH 9. THE PRG AT THE LAST MOMENT REFUSED TO ALLOW THE RVN AND US FPJMC REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT GIO LINH. THE SITE BEING PREPARED BY THE PRG IS ACTUALLY LOCATED ABOUT FIVE MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN OF GIO LINH WHICH WOULD PLACE IT ON THE GIO LINH/ CAM LO DISTRICT BOUNDARY. THE HUNGARIANS HAVE INDICATED TO THE HUE POLOFF THAT THE LOCATIONS SELECTED BY THE PRG WAS " LOGICAL" AND THAT SINCE THE TOWN OF GIO LINH HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DEVASTATED, IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO PREPARE A SITE THERE. THE HUNGARIANS TERMED THE

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INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

INRE-00 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W

----- 024561

O R 111200 Z MAR 73  
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8506  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
CINCPAC  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
USDEL FRANCE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
COMUSMACV  
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB  
ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG 5985  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 SAIGON 3931

RECONNAISSANCE VISIT A " SUCCESS" AND EXPECT AN ICCS TEAM TO DE-  
PLOY THERE BY ABOUT MARCH 23. THE HUNGARIANS REITERATED THAT  
ARRANGEMENT OF A VISIT TO THE LAO BAO ACCESS POINT WOULD BE " MORE  
COMPLEX" AND WOULD HAVE TO COME LATER.

3. ARVN 2 ND DIVISION CHIEF OF STAFF HAS CONFIRMED THAT A LARGE  
BUT UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF COMMUNIST TROOPS HAS BEEN MOVING  
INTO THE LOWLANDS OF WESTERN SON TINH AND TU NGHIA DISTRICTS IN  
QUANG NGAI.

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4. POLOFF IN QUANG TIN REPORTS THAT LOCAL GVN AUTHORITIES ARE  
PREPARED TO RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY 50 PRISONERS FROM THE PRG ON  
MAR 11. GVN APPEARS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE EXCHANGE LOCATION  
IN KY QUE VILLAGE PROPOSED BY PRG AND INSPECTED BY GVN MARCH 4 .  
THE SITE IS WITHIN RANGE OF A LONG ESTABLISHED GVN ARTILLERY POSI-  
TION AND IS IN AN AREA OFTEN PATROLLED BY GVN FORCES.

PART V MR 2

1. REGION III ICCS IS NOW MOUNTING INVESTIGATIONS IN AT LEAST TWO  
OTHER PROVINCES ASIDE FROM BINH DINH, WHERE FORMAL WORK BEGAN  
YESTERDAY. CHEO REO TEAM IN PHU BON PROVINCE HAS INSTRUCTIONS  
TO INVESTIGATE SERIES OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS ALONG QL-14 IN PHU NHON  
DISTRICT, PLEIKU, AND PLANS TO DO SO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WITH THE  
ASSISTANCE OF US/ GVN ELEMENTS OF CHEO REO FPJMT. BAN ME  
THUOT TEAM WAS TOLD TO LOOK INTO TWO INCIDENTS IN DARLAC, BOTH OF  
WHICH EVIDENTLY OCCURRED ON JANUARY 2 8. FIRST WAS ABF ON QUANG  
NHIEU, FORMER LAND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, SOME 15 KILOMETERS NORTH OF  
BAN ME THUOT, WHICH GENERATED 390 DISPLACED WAR VICTIMS.  
SECOND INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEEN ABF ON A MONTAGNARD SETTLEMENT  
SOUTH OF BAN ME THUOT, BUT COORDINATES RECEIVED BY THE ICCS  
TEAM ARE APPARENTLY ERRONEOUS AND THE TEAM IS SEEKING CLARIFICA-  
TION.

2. HUNGDEL CAPTAIN NAGY, WHO HAD CHAIRED BAN ME THUOT TEAM FOR  
THE PAST WEEK, WAS RELIEVED ON MARCH 10 ON ORDERS OF HUNGARIAN  
COLONEL VISITING FROM HIGHER ECHELON AND DEPARTS TODAY. REASON  
NOT YET KNOWN. HUNGDEL LIEUTENANT REMAINS, AND NAGY REPORTEDLY  
WILL BE REPLACED SHORTLY.

3. BINH OINH PC HOSTED PHU CAT AND QUI NHON ICCS TEAMS AT  
DINNER EVENING OF MARCH 9.

4. NINH HOA ICCS TEAM CONTINUES TO BE WINED AND DINED ACROSS KHANH HOA PROVINCE. THE PROVINCE CHIEFS PERSONALLY- CONDUCTED TOURS OF PROVINCE ARE PAYING DIVIDENDS; RANKING CANDEL INFORMED POLOFF THAT ALL TEAM MEMBERS ARE IMPRESSED BY TRANQUIL KHANH HOA ATMOSPHERE.

5. MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTED ON MARCH 10 WAS AN ENEMY GROUND ATTACK WITH ARTILLERY SUPPORT THAT OVER- RAN GVN OUTPOST IN BINH  
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THUAN EARLY AFTERNOON. KNOWN FRIENDLY CASUALTIES SO FAR: 15 KIA, 10 WIA, 8 MIA, AND 19 WEAPONS LOST.

6. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN PROVINCE HAS GRADUALLY DECLINED OVER LAST TWO WEEKS, CONCURRENTLY WITH INCREASE IN SECURITY ALONG QL-14 BETWEEN PLEIKU AND KONTUM. HOWEVER, NVA/ VC APPEAR TO HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO FADE BACK INTO OWN SECURE AREAS BUT INSTEAD HAVE REMAINED IN GENERAL AREAS OF CHU PAO PASS AND ENVIRONS OF KONTUM CITY. DAILY INCIDENTS IN PROVINCE NOW AVERAGING ONLY FOUR OR FIVE, USUALLY ABF ON RVNAF POSITIONS OR CLASHES BETWEEN PATROLLING FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES; MOST INCIDENTS ARE SMALL, WITH FEW CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE. POLOFF NOTES APPARENT INCREASE IN ENEMY MOVEMENT AND RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES. POLOFF SPECULATES ENEMY'S SHORT- RANGE GOAL MAY BE TO MOVE UNITS AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE CITY - WITHOUT PROVOKING A STRONG GVN REACTION - FOR TWO PURPOSES: 1) TO HOLD AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE IN PREPARATION FOR A POLITICAL STRUGGLE, AND 2) TO BE IN GOOD TACTICAL POSITION TO RENEW ATTACKS ON CITY IF DEEMED NECESSARY. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN KONTUM PROVINCE SINCE CEASE- FIRE HAS BEEN PRIMARILY MILITARY, WITH LITTLE REPORTED ENEMY PROSELYTIZING AND NOTHING TO SUGGEST ESTABLISHMENT OF A " SHADOW" GOVERNMENT. RVNAF ACTIVITY, EXCEPT FOR THE OPENING OF QL-14, HAS BEEN ENTIRELY DEFENSIVE.

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INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

INRE-00 RSR-01 ( ADP ) W

----- 024562

O R 111200 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8507

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

COMUSMACV

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

ZNE/ AMCONSUL DANANG 5986

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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PART VI MR 3

1. IN XUAN LOC, THE ICCSON MARCH 8 DROVE UP HIGHWAY 20 TO THE PROVINCE BORDER AND VISITED DINH QUAN AND KIEM TAN DISTRICTS. NEXT WEEK THEY PLAN TO VISIT PHUOC TUY TO CALL ON THE DISTRICT CHIEFS.

2. ARVN 25 TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER, GENERAL TU, SAID THAT THE CU CHI ICCS TEAM HAD TRAVELED UP HIGHWAY 1 THROUGH HAU  
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NGHIA UP INTO TAY NINH ON OR ABOUT 4 MARCH, AND HAD SEEN CLEARLY THAT THE PEOPLE ARE UNDER GVN CONTROL EVERYWHERE ALONG THE ROAD.

3. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE ARVN 25 TH DIVISION TOLD POLOFF THAT DURING THREE DAYS IN MARCH THE ENEMY SHOT DOWN FIVE VNAF AIRCRAFT, AND THAT WHEREAS IN NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 1972 THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 8,000 ENEMY SOLDIERS IN THE AREAS, THERE MIGHT BE AS MANY AS 20,000 , RESTED AND REFITTED, BY THIS MAY OR JUNE. BOTH

GENERAL TU AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCE CHIEF DOAN CONG HAU SAID THIS NUMBER IS A " POSSIBILITY" BUT NEITHER APPEARED TO HAVE STARTED PLANNING TO DEAL WITH IT. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO PUT UP SHELTERS IN THE HO BO/ BOI LOI WOODS AREA. DESPITE UNCONVINCING ARVN COMMANDERS' DENIALS THAT ARVN IS OPERATING IN ENEMY AREAS, THE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE 25 TH REPORTED THAT ON OR ABOUT 4 MARCH, FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT DIVISION DESTROYED APPROXIMATELY 93 SUCH ENEMY SHELTERS.

4. IN PHUOC TUY THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TELLING PEOPLE THEY WILL ORGANIZE THEIR FRONT TO STRUGGLE FOR PEACE.

PART VII MR 4

1. REGION VII EXPECTS TO QUICKLY PROCESS AND PASS TO CENTRAL ICCS SIX INVESTIGATION REPORTS WHICH BECAME BOGGED DOWN DURING LAST WEEK' S HUNGARIAN REGIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP. THE INDONESIANS TAKE OVER THE CHAIR MARCH 11. THE PROBLEM WAS DOUBLE TRANSLATION AND THE HUNGARIAN' S LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN FREEWHEELING NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN DELIBERATE OBSTRUCTIONISM.

2. THE KHANH HUNG ICCS TEAM FLEW TO VINH BINH MARCH 10 TO INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT AT AN RF OUTPOST, MAKING THE EIGHTH ICCS INVESTIGATION IN REGION VII.

3. VC/ NVA PRESSURE IN SOUTHERN CHUONG THIEN IS CONTINUING AND THE VC/ VNA HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF MUCH OF THE AREA, BUT ONLY SOME 15 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION. IN KIEN THIEN DISTRICT, THE VC/ NVA HAVE REGISTERED IMPRESSIVE GAINS AND HAVE ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN ISOLATING THE GVN TO ITS OUTPOST POSITIONS AND THE DISTRICT TOWN. DAMAGE TO THE DISTRICT TOWN HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENSIVE. FEAR OF RVNAF REACTION AND PERHAPS CONCERN OVER A TOO BLATANT CEASE- FIRE ABUSE WILL PROBABLY DISSUADE THE VC FROM TRYING TO CAPTURE THE DISTRICT TOWN. NEVERTHELESS, THE VC/ NVA ALREADY  
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EXERT ENOUGH CONTROL IN THE DISTRICT TO ASSURE THEIR CONTINUED USE OF IT AS A ROUTE OF INFILTRATION AND A SECURE BASE AREA FOR FUTURE MILITARY OR POLITICAL OPERATIONS IN THE CENTRAL DELTA.

4. IN VINH LONG THE VIET CONG ARE DESTROYING OR TAMPERING WITH GVN ISSUED FAMILY BOOKS AND IDENTITY CARDS. GVN VILLAGE OFFICIALS ARE COLLECTING FAMILY BOOKS FROM HEADS OF FAMILIES AND ARE STORING THEM IN VILLAGE OFFICES.

5. AN GIANG PROVINCE' S DEMOCRACY PARTY HAS RESOLVED ITS LEADERSHIP PROBLEM AND HAS INAUGURATED A PROVINCE CHAPTER. APPARENTLY, NONE OF THE LOCAL HOA HAO POLITICIANS WAS WILLING TO GO ON RECORD AS THE HEAD OF PRESIDENT THIEU' S PARTY. THE PROVINCE CHIEF IN-



TERVENED AND NEGOTIATED TO EVERYONE' S SATISFACTION A ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP. HE MADE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE POPULAR FRONT.

6. REPORTS OF THE POSSIBLE RELEASE, DELIVERY TO THE PRG/ DRV, AND EXILE OF TRAN NGOC CHAU ARE CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT KIEN HOA . POLOFF REPORTS THAT CHAU' S POPULARITY LOCALLY IS STILL VERY HIGH. PEOPLE BELIEVE THE GVN WOULD MAKE A GREAT MISTAKE IN TURNING CHAU OVER TO THE PRG/ DRV OR DRIVING HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY. SEVERAL HIGHLY PLACED AND WELL- INFORMED LOCAL OFFICIALS GO EVEN FURTHER. IN AN ELECTION THEY BELIEVE CHAU' S POPULARITY IS SO WIDE- SPREAD THAT HE COULD CARRY KIEN HOA EVEN AS AN NLF CANDIDATE. BUNKER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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